Extension of Shatabdi Express

1571. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Howrah-Rourkela Shatabdi Express upto Bolangir via Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh and Barpali;

(b) if so, he detail thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide additional services to the Western Orissa from Howrah, Madras, Bombay and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Frequency of 8301/8302 Hazarat Nizamuddin-Sambalpur Hirakud Express will be increased from tri-weekly to 4 days a week during 1996-97.

Fishing Industry

1572. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the immense potential for fishing still remains largely untapped in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to identify and remove the problems of the fishing industry without disturbing the environment; and

(c) the facilities and concessions being contemplated to be provided to the fishermen?

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) : (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The production of fish in the country since 1988-89 is as follows :

Year	Production of fish (lakh tonnes)		
	Marine	Inland	Total
1988-89	18.17	13.35	31.52
1989-90	22.75	14.02	36.77
1990-91	23.00	15.36	38.36
1991-92	24.47	17.10	41.57
1992-93	25.76	17.89	43.65
1993-94	26.49	19.95	46.44
1994-95	26.92	20.97	47.89
1995-96 (Provisional)	27.20	22.30	49.50

It may be seen that the production has been increasing at a significant average annual rate of 6.7% during the period, thus harnessing more and more of the fishery potential of the country. However, continuous efforts are being made by Government of India to increase production of fish and productivity of fishermen and fishing industry through expansion of aquaculture in fresh & brackishwater, development of coastal marine fisheries, construction of requisite infrastructure like fishery harbours and fish landing centres, provision of adequate credit and development of human resources.

Adequate measure are taken to redue any adverse impact of aquaculture on the environment. Guidelines have been issued to States and Union Territoris to develop aquaculture including shrimp culture as a sustainable, eco-friendly and socially acceptable activity.

(c) Important facilities and concessions provided to the fihermen are :

(i) Assistance in the form of subsidy to fish farmers for construction of new ponds, reclamation/renovation of ponds & tanks, input for first year fish culture, running water fish culture, etc. for development of freshwater aquacultre through Fish Farmes' Development Agencies.

(ii) Technical, Financial and extension support to shrimp farmers belonging to the small scale sector, training to farmers and incentives for establishment of shrimp hatcheries, semi-intensive farms, etc. for development of brackishwater aquaculture.

(iii) Subsidy towards 25% cost of outboard motors/inboard motors for motorisation of traditional craft.

(iv) Re-imbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 m length.

(v) Provision of infrastructural facilities for fishing vessels at fishery harbours and fish landing centres.

(vi) Assistance of 100% to states for strengthening infrastructural facilities for inland fish marketing.

(vii) Facilities for insurance cover to active fishermen.

(viii) Development of model fishermen Villages by providing civic amenities such as housing, drinking water and community halls.

Burning of Straw

1573. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 275 million tonnes of straw is either burnt of allowed to rot in our country whereas burning of the same is banned in many European countries;